

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, page 1, under "CROSS REFERENCE RELATED APPLICATIONS," and after "August 12, 2000," insert --now U.S. Patent No. 6,719,768, --.

In claim 51, line 6, delete "capable of producing," and in its place, insert --that produces--.

In claim 58, line 6, delete "capable of producing," and in its place, insert --that produces--.

In claim 64, line 1, delete "The," and in its place, insert --A--. Also in line 1, delete "claim 63, ."

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses a method for forming a magnetic port in a first hollow body or for coupling lumens of first and second hollow bodies, where the method includes forming an opening in a wall of the first hollow body;

providing first and second securing or coupling components, the first securing component produces a magnetic field or the components are capable of producing a magnetic field; coupling the components to first and/or second hollow bodies via an expandable structure of each of the components, where the structure includes a plurality of self-expanding arms. The prior art of record also does not disclose that the abovementioned method includes releasing the expandable structure from a delivery device adapted to retain the structure in a collapsed condition, where the structure is allowed to expand upon its release.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian W. Woo whose telephone number is 571-272-4707. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH:6:30-4:00; alt. Fri.: 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tan-Uyen (Jackie) Ho can be reached on 571-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Julian W. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773

June 3, 2008